25th August 1925]

Contribution from the Adi-Dravidas towards starting a school for them in Vaniveddu village.

* 372 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Wallajah range, asked the Adi-Dravidas on 8th May 1925, who are living in No. 66, Vaniveddu village, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, either to contribute half of the amount for starting a school for them or to contribute free labour?

A.—No.

Mr. R. VEERIAN.—' Sir, with reference to the main question, the answer is 'No'. Here is a mahazar submitted by respectable members belonging to the depressed classes in the Vaniveddu village, Wallajah taluk, North Arcot district, wherein it is stated clearly that the Deputy Inspector of Schools asked the members of the depressed classes either to contribute half the amount for starting a school for them or to contribute free labour. At least may I know from the hon. the Minister for Education whether he will kindly make inquiries into the matter?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" We have enquired and the information is given here in the answer."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—" May I know whether the Government are not going to believe the statement made by the respectable members of the depressed classes? I am perfectly willing to hand over the statement. Either the statement made by the respectable members of the depressed classes ought to be incorrect or there ought to be inaccuracy somewhere else."

Excise.

Alleged keeping of an unlicensed toddy shop in Uppupalaiyam village, Salem district.

* 373 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement in the *Kudinool*, dated 5th July and in the *Hindu* newspaper to the effect that the Perunkurichi abkari contractor has been openly keeping an unlicensed toddy shop in Uppupalaiyam village in Tiruchengodu taluk of Salem district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the people of the Uppupalaiyam village are opposed to the opening and the continuance of this toddy shop;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that unlicensed toddy is being sold here at very cheap rates and that the restriction as to hours is completely ignored; and

(*d*) whether the subordinates of the department are ignorant of the existence of this unlicensed shop?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—" Sir, am I to understand that the hon. the Minister has no concern with the action of the officials of his department who go on giving free drink and that too at all hours, and giving inducements of all sorts to the people especially in this famine-ridden area? Sir, can the Government, although such things were brought to their notice as long ago as 5th July, say that they have no information?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I think, as to the general remarks made by the hon. Member I must say that he is not at all justified and, as regards the specific question put, we have given the answer."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"May I know if the Government do not think it advisable to call for the information?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It will be considered."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I ask how I am not justified in my remark seeing that we have been told that Government's aim is total prohibition at least at some distant future."

Location of toddy shops in Vellalore village, Coimbatore taluk.

* 374 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any rule that no toddy or arrack shop should be located near the place of a weekly market or at or near a public road;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a toddy shop is located very near the weekly market at Vellalore in Coimbatore taluk close to the public road leading to it and that an arrack shop also is located in the same village on the other side of the market;

(*c*) what is the population of the village;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that there have been always several factions in the village and there have been murders and other offences among these factions and there have been several criminal cases and security proceedings even recently;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on the recommendation of the police, the shops had to be temporarily closed last year;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that one of the factions consists largely of Pallars who live in the village in very large numbers and who have generally no means of livelihood excepting coolie work;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that there are several other toddy and arrack shops within two or three miles from the village; and

(*h*) whether any suggestion has been made that either of the shops or both of them may be permanently closed; whether the Government have any objection to go into the matter carefully and pass final orders about the closure of the shops?

A.—(*a*) The departmental rules require that rural shops should not, except in special circumstances, be located within a furlong of a metalled road and should be away from market places, etc.

(*c*) 6,549 according to the census of 1921.

(*b*) & (*d*) *to* (*g*) The Government have no information.

(*h*) No suggestion has been received by Government.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*a*), may I know whether the special circumstances referred to in that rule have been defined and if so, what they are?"